

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
 - 2 requesting an InfiniBand connectivity configuration;
 - 3 receiving a response regarding whether the requested configuration can be
 - 4 provided; and
 - 5 attempting to establish the requested connectivity configuration if the response to
 - 6 the request is affirmative.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the requested connectivity configuration is not
- 2 contained in the specification established for the InfiniBand architecture.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the requested connectivity configuration is
- 2 comprised of a plurality of links.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the requested connectivity configuration is
- 2 provided using a standard InfiniBand backplane connector.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said request for a connectivity configuration is
- 2 made by an InfiniBand module to an InfiniBand chassis management entity.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said request for a connectivity configuration is
- 2 made through an InfiniBand management link.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said request for a connectivity configuration is
2 written to a first management link configuration register and said response to said
3 request is written to a second management link configuration register.

1 8. A method comprising:
2 receiving a connectivity configuration request associated with an InfiniBand
3 connector, the configuration request representing an expanded InfiniBand
4 connector configuration including information indicative of one or more
5 desired links to be established through the InfiniBand connector and
6 assigning one or more physical lanes of the InfiniBand connector to each
7 of the one or more desired links; and
8 configuring the InfiniBand connector in accordance with said connectivity
9 configuration request.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein said connectivity configuration request is made
2 by an InfiniBand module and is received by an InfiniBand chassis management
3 entity.

1 10. The method of claim 8, wherein said expanded InfiniBand connector
2 configuration is not contained in the specification established for the InfiniBand
3 architecture.

1 11. The method of claim 8, wherein said expanded InfiniBand connector
2 configuration is comprised of a plurality of links

- 1 12. A method comprising:
- 2 an InfiniBand management link operating to enable the establishment of an
- 3 InfiniBand connectivity configuration, wherein said management link:
- 4 records a request for a connectivity configuration made by an InfiniBand
- 5 module;
- 6 allows an InfiniBand chassis to obtain said request for a connectivity
- 7 configuration;
- 8 records a response from said InfiniBand chassis to said request for a
- 9 connectivity configuration; and
- 10 allows said InfiniBand module to obtain said response to said request for a
- 11 connectivity configuration.
- 1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein said request for a connectivity configuration
- 2 requests an expanded configuration that is not contained in the specification
- 3 established for the InfiniBand architecture.
- 1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein said request for a connectivity configuration is
- 2 written to a first management link configuration register and said response is
- 3 written to a second management link configuration register.
- 1 15. The method of claim 12, wherein the requested connectivity configuration is
- 2 comprised of a plurality of links.
- 1 16. A network apparatus comprising:

2 an InfiniBand connector;
3
4 an InfiniBand module that is operable to make a request for an expanded
5 connectivity configuration for the InfiniBand connector;
6
7 a chassis management entity coupled to said InfiniBand module that receives the
8 request for an expanded connectivity configuration for the InfiniBand
9 connector and that provides a response regarding whether the requested
10 configuration can be provided.

1 17. The network apparatus of claim 16, wherein said requested connectivity
2 configuration is not contained in the specification established for the InfiniBand
3 architecture.

1 18. The network apparatus of claim 16, wherein the requested connectivity
2 configuration is other than:
3
4 a single link comprised of a connection to the first pin of a plurality of pins on the
5 InfiniBand connector;
6
7 a single link comprised of a connection to the first four pins of the plurality of
8 pins on the InfiniBand connector; or
9
10 a single link comprised of a connection to the first twelve pins of the plurality of
11 pins on the InfiniBand connector.

1 19. The network apparatus of claim 16, wherein said InfiniBand module is operable
2 to establish the requested connectivity configuration if the response to said
3 connectivity request is affirmative.

- 1 20. The network apparatus of claim 16, wherein said requested connectivity
2 configuration is comprised of a plurality of links that are provided simultaneously
3 through said InfiniBand connector.
- 1 21. The network apparatus of claim 16, wherein the InfiniBand connector is a
2 standard InfiniBand backplane connector.
- 1 22. The network apparatus of claim 16, wherein the said request for a connectivity
2 configuration is made through an InfiniBand management link.
- 1 23. The network apparatus of claim 21, wherein said request for a connectivity
2 configuration is written to a first management link configuration register and said
3 response to said request is written to a second management link configuration
4 register.
- 1 24. A machine readable medium having stored thereon data representing sequences of
2 instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform
3 operations comprising:
4 requesting an expanded InfiniBand connectivity configuration;
5 receiving a response regarding whether the requested configuration can be
6 provided; and
7 establishing the requested configuration.
- 1 25. The medium of claim 24 wherein the requested connectivity configuration is not
2 contained in the specification established for the InfiniBand architecture.

1 26. The medium of claim 24 wherein the requested connectivity configuration is
2 comprised of a plurality of links.

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